

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A deep draw packaging method comprising:
 - placing an object (C) in a concave container portion (1) formed through molding of a film with small shrinkability (A) having a residual heat shrinkage rate at 100°C of ~~more than 0 and 15% or less~~ 1 to 15%, the film (A) being formed by stretching a film having deep draw moldability at 80 to 95°C with an extension ratio of 2.5 to 4.0 times in a machine direction (MD) and with an extension ratio of 2.5 to 4.0 times in a transverse direction (TD), and then shrinking the film at 70 to 98°C by 10 to 40% in the MD and by 10 to 40% in the TD, and then thermally relaxing the film, the film having a surface which is formed of a heat sealable material ~~and to become the~~ becomes an inner wall of the container portion;
 - transferring the concave container portion (1) to a vacuum packaging apparatus (5);
 - placing, on the concave container portion (1), a cover portion (2) formed of a film (B) which can be heat welded to the film with small shrinkability (A);
 - thermally shrinking a side face portion (11) and a bottom face portion (12) of the concave container portion (1) by use of a concave portion heating/shrinking mold (6) such that the side face portion (11) and the bottom face portion (12) come into close contact with the object (C); and
 - sealing an upper peripheral portion (13) of the concave container portion (1) with the film (B) through heating/sealing means (7).

2. (currently amended) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 1, wherein the film with small shrinkability (A) has a residual heat shrinkage rate at 100°C of 1 to 10%. ~~is formed by stretching a film having deep draw moldability at 80 to 95°C with extension ratio of 2.5 to 4.0 times in a machine direction (MD) and with extension ratio of 2.5 to 4.0 times in a transverse direction (TD), and then shrinking the film at 70 to 98°C by 10 to 40% in the MD and by 10 to 40% in the TD.~~

3. (original) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 1, wherein the film with small shrinkability (A) includes a sealable resin layer (a); a polyamide resin layer (b) which is formed of a polyamide resin having a melting point higher by about 15°C than the temperature for heating the film constituting the concave container portion (1) and which has been stretched and then thermally relaxed; and, if desired, a surface layer (c) formed of a thermoplastic resin.

4. (original) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 2, wherein the film with small shrinkability (A) includes a sealable resin layer (a); a polyamide resin layer (b) which is formed of a polyamide resin having a melting point higher by about 15°C than the temperature for heating the film constituting the concave container portion (1) and which has been stretched and then thermally relaxed; and, if desired, a surface layer (c) formed of a thermoplastic resin.

5. (previously presented) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 1, wherein the object (C) is a processed food.

6. (currently amended) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 1, wherein the film (B) comprises the same film as ~~is~~ the film with small shrinkability (A).

7. (currently amended) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 5, wherein the film (B) comprises the same film as ~~is~~ the film with small shrinkability (A).

8. (previously presented) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 1, wherein the vacuum packaging apparatus (5) can heat the side portion (11) and the bottom portion (12) of the transferred concave container portion (1) to 70 to 120°C, and can evacuate the space between the concave container portion (1) containing the object (C) and the cover portion (2) formed of the film (B).

9. (original) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 5, wherein the vacuum packaging apparatus (5) can heat the side face portion (11) and the bottom face portion (12) of the transferred concave container portion (1) to 70 to 120°C, and can evacuate the space between the concave container portion (1) containing the object (C) and the cover portion (2) formed of the film (B).

10. (original) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 8, wherein the vacuum packaging apparatus (5) has a structure such that the concave portion heating/shrinking mold (6) comes into close contact with the side face portion (11) and the bottom face portion (12) of the concave container portion (1) after initiation of evacuation.

11. (original) A deep draw packaging method according to claim 9, wherein the vacuum packaging apparatus (5) has a structure such that the concave portion heating/shrinking mold (6) comes into close contact with the side face portion (11) and the bottom face portion (12) of the concave container portion (1) after initiation of evacuation.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)